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C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 001073

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [EPET](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: CODEL PAYNE MEETING WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO  
DJIBOUTI

Classified By: Pol/Econ Erinn C. Reed for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[11.](#) (U) Summary: Congressman Donald Payne and HIRC Ted Dagne met with French Ambassador to Djibouti, Philip Selz, 9 August 2004 during a visit to the Horn of Africa region. Poloff and Charge Gribbin accompanied. Payne and Selz discussed the recent French decision to transport aid into Darfur and the U.S./French cooperation in Djibouti. End Summary.

[12.](#) (U) Payne commented that the aims of the USG and France were the same, increase stability and improving the lives of the people of the region. He also said he looked forward to cooperation between the U.S. and France in Chad and Sudan. Payne continued that there was disappointment in the American legislature at the lack of a sense of urgency concerning Darfur throughout the international community. Elaborating on that point he commented that many in the international community feel that 30 days is too soon a deadline for a resolution without realizing that this problem has been going on for over a year. Payne said that he was glad to see the French willing to help and perhaps that would get the international community to start acting.

[13.](#) (C) Selz replied that France agrees with the Security Council's resolution but does not think the 30 day deadline will be met because the Sudanese government doesn't want to reign in the Janjawide. Selz continued that the French feel it is more important that the month deadline result in a change of orientation and attitude among the Sudanese government. He said from there we can hope that it begins taking action against the Janjawide in order to establish peace and provide humanitarian aid. Selz repeated that the time frame given by the Security Council resolution is short. Payne commented that the same message had been given to the Government of Sudan by Secretary Powell and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan over the past few months, in reality giving it much more than 30 days to act.

[14.](#) (U) On the French/American cooperation in Djibouti, Selz commented that though their reasons for having a presence in Djibouti differed the two countries share the same objective in the Global War on Terror. Selz said one aspect of the Franco-American relations that could be improved was the exchange of intelligence regarding terrorism and security issues. He stated that with the small amount of information given by the American military regarding a threat, it is difficult to appraise and evaluate the threat to the French population. Selz commented that due to the nature of the threat in this region, the security situation could be slightly jeopardized by the lack of coordination between the armed forces present. However, Selz did applaud the coordination that has been started among the donor countries in Djibouti on the education and health development programs.

[15.](#) (C) When asked what economic interests France had in Djibouti, Selz responded that aside from the French military community there were a number of import/export and transshipping companies and Total Oil, one of the three major oil suppliers in Djibouti. Selz commented that all three companies will be facing a large problem posed by the Government of Djibouti's order to move to the new port facility within one year. Selz said there is a lack of discussion between the Government and the companies. He said he expected big problems in the coming months regarding this issue.

RAGSDALE